Throbbing Nights
Cinderella Story
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第三話

回歸之章——黎明

NII-CHAN.
NII-CHAN.
MIMI HAS DIED
SHE WAS STILL ALIVE YESTER-DAY...
SHE DIDN'T MOVE AT ALL.
I DON'T WANNA RAISE PETS ANYMORE.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO.
BECAUSE THEY MIGHT DIE,
NII-CHAN WILL GIVE YOU PET THAT CANNOT DIE!
IN THAT CASE,
A KIND THAT NEVER DIES ON YOU...
A PET THAT NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE...

SO.
IT WAS A DREAM?
MASAKI, LEND ME YOUR BATHROBE!
Your clothes don't fit me.
WHERE DID THAT GUY RUN TO?

AAAA

HIME, HIME!
THIS IS REALLY AMUSING...
KUGA!!
WHO DID YOU CALL IS CRUEL —!?
What?!
IDIOT! STOP YOUR HAND IMMEDIATELY! DON'T TOUCH ME! CRUEL WOMAN!
He naturally got gone bumpy when he's touched by women.
sssz
Women allergy
YOU SURE ARE WEIRD..

IS THIS KATANA THAT VALUABLE?
WRONG
Right, I'm thief! I said it, are you satisfied now! I'm at my limit already!
I DIDN'T INTEND TO AMBUSH YOU AT NIGHT, IT WAS TO STEAL STUFF!
ALRIGHT... IT WAS A PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITY TOO, STOP PUNCTURING HIM, HIME
IF YOU ALREADY HAD A HATRED FOR WOMEN, WHY DID YOU AMBUSH ME LAST NIGHT...
I think you'd better make it clear for yourself first...
THIS SWORD IS JUST A MERE OLD SWORD TO OTHERS
IT'S ONLY VALUABLE WHEN YOU HOLD IT, IT CAN FIND AND SPOT THE ENEMY'S "WEAK POINT" FOR YOU
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THIS FOR LONG TIME, SO I INTENDED TO GET RID OF IT
SUCH A SWORD WILL ONLY BRING TROUBLES TO YOU,

HUH?
KUGA, IS THAT SO?
YES.
IT'S KINDA LIKE THAT.
DOESN'T THAT SWORD JUST WORK WHEN IT COMES TO EXORCIZING EVIL SPIRITS?
WELL, IF YOU KNOW SWORDMANSHIP IT WILL BE ABLE AFFECT EVEN HUMAN IF YOU ATTACK THEM INTENTIONALLY
IT'S SAID THAT IN MUROMACHI ERA, LORD ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKIRA
WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE THE ENEMY SENT AN ONMYOUJI WITH HIS SHIKIGAMI ARMY TO ASSASINATE HIM
LIKE IT SAID, SHIKIGAMIS ARE MONSTERS AND SPIRITS WHICH SERVE AN ONMYOUJI WHO DEFEATED THEM.

WAS A "LIVING THING" AT THAT TIME
THIS "GUY"...
ALRIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU.
I DON'T NEED IT.
CASTING CURSES ON THE ENEMY,
OR SUMMONING SHIKIGAMIS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD THESE WERE COMMON PRACTICES IN OLD TIMES.
MY ABILITY OF SEEING THOSE DEMONIC CREATURES, IS IT ALSO BECAUSE OF THIS SWORD?
IF BECAUSE OF THIS SWORD THAT I'M BEING CHASED BY THOSE MONSTERS...

IF THIS SWORD ISN'T HERE, THEN I CAN LIVE AN ORDINARY
THEIR TARGET IS YOU, NOT THAT SWORD
IMPOSSIBLE.
THOSE DEMONS IS DESIRING FOR YOUR BODY, ALL THEY WANT IS TO DEVOUR YOU
AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE THOSE THINGS HAD NO RELATION TO THAT SWORD...
WHAT YOU ENCOUNTERED, THOSE THING WILL KEEP ATTACKING YOU LIKE BEFORE...

DON'T DRAG ME IN
EH?
It's not like that...
BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY'S SITUATION, I ALREADY LEARNT SOME...
THAT WAS BECAUSE KUGA WAS SECRETLY PROTECTING YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK
BUT THING LIKE THAT NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
...
...
UM...
THUMP
YES!
I'M HUNGRY!
ARE YOU STARVING?

WELL, MY STOMACH JUST MADE A HUGE SOUND...
EH?
TODAY, THE SERVANT ISN'T HERE, SO WE CAN FREELY EAT WHATEVER WE WANT.
HEY!
SHIROU, WANNA FILL YOUR STOMACH AS WELL?
YES, ME TOO
WAIT, THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
I...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I MIGHT RUN INTO THIS SORT OF THING,
I...
NOW I'M AWARE OF IT...
IT'S FINE LIKE THAT ALREADY!
STILL WON'T CHANGE

HAVE WE EVER MET EACH OTHER BEFORE?
RIGHT! SHIROU, THERE IS SOME-THING..
HUH?
KUGA!
YOU MEANT "BEFORE BEING BORN"?
Hahaha
WHAT A JOKE!
"BEFORE" I MEANT HERE, NOT THAT FARAWAY! IT'S SOMEHOW LIKE...
WHEN I WAS A CHILD..
THUMP

IT'S JUST MY FEELING.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
NO WAY
Let see there is something for us to eat!
CLICK
Well, eggs and tofu...

WHAT!
YOU'VE BEEN ALWAYS PROTECTING ME ALL THE TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
THANK YOU!
DURING THE TIME THAT I WAS AVOIDING REALITY...
ISN'T THAT A "DEJA VU"?
SO THAT I DEPENDED ON YOU TOO MUCH...
Hahaha
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO GENTLE,
BUT NOW...
HIME...

REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED, YOU'RE FOREVER MASAKI'S LITTLE SISTER.
THIS FACT CAN'T BE CHANGED, RIGHT?
THOSE THINGS WON'T BE AFTER NII-CHAN, WILL THEY?
AS LONG AS THEY KEEP CHASING ME, NII-CHAN WILL BE OKAY, RIGHT?

IT WAS LIKE THAT ALREADY, YOU CANNOT TELL NII-CHAN.
I WANNA REMAIN BY NII-CHAN'S SIDE AS AN ORDINARY LITTLE SISTER,
BECAUSE THE ME RIGHT NOW...
AT LEAST I MUST BE ABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF...
I MUST THINK OF WAYS TO PROTECT...
THERE-FORE...
UM...
ALRIGHT! IT'S FINE, I KNOW!
I've got a feeling that troubles will keep coming from now on.
Where did that person run to?

I wonder if he can fix some of my stuff, too. Later?

HEH!
IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA MIXING WITH NATURE SOMETIMES, ISN'T IT?
THERE ARE EVEN PINE MUSHROOMS TO COLLECT
I WAS ORIGINALLY A WOOD SPIRIT,
SO I REALLY LOVE FORESTS LIKE THIS.
WEREN'T YOU A DEMON?

SPIRITS HAVE NO CONSCIOUSNESS AND HABITS LIKE HUMAN,
SO IF ONLY GIVING THEM A BODY, THEY CAN BE USE AS FIGHTING OR ASSASINATING TOOL, AND WHEN THEY'RE FINISH USING THEM JUST THROW THEM AWAY.
IT WAS THE PERIOD THAT I WAS PUT IN SERVICE AND MANIPULATED BY AN ONMYOUJI!
JUST LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE
AFTER DYING, THEIR BODIES WILL DISSOLVE UNTIL NOTHING LEFT.
AKOU MARU-SAMA HAD USED THAT SWORD'S POWER,
AND GRANTED ME THIS HUMAN FORM.

EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST A POWERLESS KID, IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
HE SAID THAT TO ME.
SPEAKING OF THAT "SWORD"...
HAVE I TOLD YOU ITS REAL NATURE?
IT'S NECESSARY TO ABOLISH THAT SWORD ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE POINT FOR KNOWING THAT?
HAHAHAHA
HAHA, STILL KEEPING IT TO YOURSELF?
OF COURSE.

BECAUSE WHETHER THERE IS THAT SWORD OR NOT, KAZUKI IS STILL THEIR TARGET.
IT'S BETTER TO GET RID OF THE ROOT OF EVIL SOURCE SOONEST
LIKE THAT, THE CHAIN TIEING AKOU MARU-SAMA AND THAT SWORD WILL BE CUT, THE "PROMISE" WILL BE INVALID, RIGHT?
WITHOUT THAT THING'S POWER,
I STILL HAVE MY OWN FIGHTING WAY.
YOUR FIGHTING WAY?

ONLY IF YOU CAN GIVE UP THIS "SHIROU" NAME,
RIGHT?
FOR HER SAKE, I CAN.
WHAT A BIG MUSH-ROOM!

ISN'T THIS PLACE PRIVATE LAND?
WHO CARES! SELLING THESE CAN GIVE US A BARGAIN...
OW!
WHAT DID I STEP ON?
THAT THE HELL IS THIS?
..?
HEY, WE WON'T BE WAITING FOR YOU!
WHAT THE HELL IS A STONE DOING HERE!!?
HOLD ON, THERE IS A WEIRD STONE HERE...
BLOCKED OTHER'S PATH----!
AH!

What's it?
That weird aura just now..
Damn! Living in this human form for so long, my sense has been rusty!
IT BECAME QUIET AGAIN ?

WHAT...IT THAT THING?
STRANGE QUADRU-PED?

WHAT—IS THAT THING?
STRANGE QUADRUPED?

H-HEY...!?
DAMNED HURT...
EH?
HUH?

A WOMAN!
GENDAI
GASP!
TOUCH
HOW COME THERE IS NO REAC-TION?
WHY IS IT?

Back home
HIME... YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE AN OMLETTE, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO THEN?
Do some simple dish, can't you...
Wooh, it's amazing, Kuspi
IS BOILED EGG OKAY?
Explode